

Will never slip around again \*  
If you were only mine

FEBRUARY 1951 • VOL 9. NO. 2

**Capitol**  
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

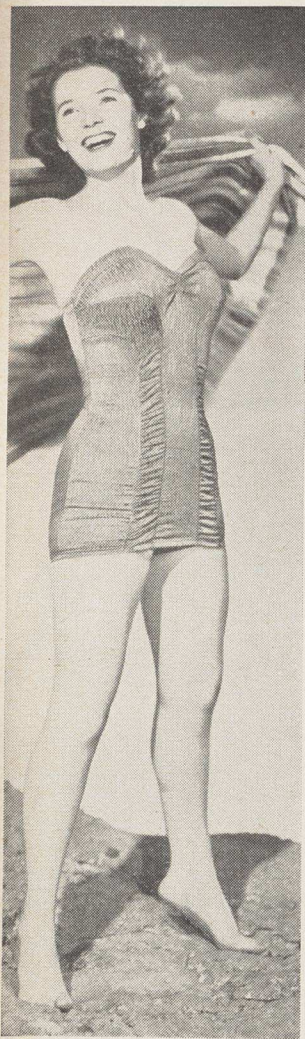
# NEWS

over and over and over \*  
all thru the day forever and ever \*  
I didn't know what time it was \*  
Frankie and Johnnie while the angelus was ringing \*  
Younger than springtime \*  
Come rain or come shine you're mine \*  
this can't be love my romance \*  
in the meadow \*  
moonlight in vermont \*  
a dozen \*  
oh but I do \*  
thou swell \*  
my ideal \*  
my dream is yours \*  
ma-ma-taz \*  
cookin' \*  
in the meadow \*  
moonlight in vermont \*  
a dozen \*  
oh but I do \*  
thou swell \*  
my ideal \*  
my dream is yours \*  
ma-ma-taz \*  
cookin' \*



MARGARET WHITING





**POLLY BERGEN** has made two movies with Martin and Lewis and will work with them this month in Florida. In private life, Polly, a singer, is the wife of screen actor Jerome Courtland.

## Dave Dexter's Surface Noise

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### Life In America—The Amateur Songwriter

H. Allen Smith once wrote of the man who collected lint from navels and managed to amass an enviable collection, which he hoarded and revered above his family, his house and his best pipe.

Other mature folk who, otherwise, behave comparatively normally risk limb and life in the pursuit of matchbook covers, foreign stamps and—it's deadly serious to them—crumpled cigarette bands found in pavement gutters.

But more eccentric than all these species of homo sapiens are the songwriters of America, particularly the simon pure who have never had hits. Firstly, they are indestructible. No rebuff dampens their ambitions. Physically, they are, to a man, as hardy as John Wayne in a celluloid foxhole. They are on the job 24 hours a day, waving their lyrics and their melodies at singers, bandleaders, publishers and record company savants, constantly urging, mandating and threatening that their efforts be performed.

There's the beauty shop operator in Kansas who deceptively stacked a dozen or more of her ditties in gay Christmas gift boxes beautifully bedecked in ribbon and holly, and dispatched them off to anybody—everybody—whom she thought might sing, play or record them.

And the man in Texas, who once a month for 35 years has submitted his "On the Dusty Rusty Stagecoach to Heaven" masterpiece to untold thousands of radio stations and record companies.

One aged amateur repeatedly loads the mails with her songs accompanied by a note—always the same note—that she is desperately ill, and that the royalties received from her song would permit the operation which will save her fast-ebbing life. She used the system since 1919.

The con men, lifers, second-story gents and snatch men in America's prisons and jails who turn out songs they are convinced should place from one to ten on next June's Hit Parade are legion. These men have time to write and rewrite, shape and reshape their tunes. And they exhibit considerable more patience than their colleagues on the outside.

Housewives? Let's not get into that phase. For every one who brandishes a broom, two write songs.

Cole Porter? Frank Loesser? Johnny Mercer? Berlin? They're all bums. No talent. They've got "ins" with the big publishers. That's what the amateurs say in their letters. And the record companies are in cahoots—and will somebody please advise this column how a cahoot functions?—with the professionals. The door is closed to an unknown. It's a monopoly, that's what it is.

Well, we're gonna tell a secret. There is no monopoly, not even a third-class cartel. It's just that the record company men actually sit down and carefully listen to songs. And if some of those aspiring, struggling writers would do that with their own tunes, they'd never get a rejection. They wouldn't dare submit 'em!

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## Herman Herd Revamped; Swears 'No More Bop'

Woody Herman grabbed his whisk broom and cleaned house again in January, as he does every few years, to shake up his orchestra and discard many of the arrangements he's been featuring the past three years.

### But No Return To Dixie Planned

In Hollywood on a brief vacation, during which hiatus he and his mentor, Abe Turchen, started hiring new faces for his herd, the Milwaukee-born clary and sax star admitted he was "through with bop and everything connected with bop."

"We are not going back to the original Dixieland style Woody featured when he took over the old Isham Jones band in 1936," Turchen said, "but there will be no more of this so-called 'progressive' stuff that so few understand."

### Woody, Capitol Part Company

"Woody will strive for a vastly more melodic orchestra, and there will be more emphasis on dance tempos, too. The bop era never did amount to much, except among a few immature adolescents and a fanatical fringe of exhibitionists," Turchen went on. "We are about to play good, musicianly dance music. You'll soon hear the difference."

Capitol and Woody parted company in January, but the split had nothing to do with the style change.



**NAT COLE** made discs in New York recently with an appreciative audience, June Hutton and Neal Hefti, the arranger. Later, the King bee-lined for California for nitery, TV and radio work. His "Mona Lisa" was one of 1950's biggest sellers.

## Chicago Awaits King Cole Trio

King Cole's combo, after a stay in California since Christmas, swings east, to Chicago, for a week at the Regal Theater starting Feb. 16. Then it's on to New Jersey for a nitery engagement.

Nat's January run in Reno was cancelled because of floods and his trio, instead, worked the Tiffany Club in Los Angeles.

## Washington Next For Peggy Lee

Peggy Lee, back in California after a brief appearance in the ill-fated American Legion show, "Red, White and Blue," which folded in Chicago, will train out again for a week at the Capitol Theater in Washington, D. C., starting Feb. 22. She's also due to perform with her husband, Dave Barbour, at the N. Y. Waldorf-Astoria in March.



**CAPITOL AIRLINES**, flying 450 flights a day in and out of 73 cities, last month started an added service for its passengers—a complimentary copy of the Cap News to every traveler. Hostesses Hoekstra and Gilson distribute the mag, in this shot, to Mary Mayo, who is making fast time as a singer on the Capitol label and who frequently takes to the air for engagements. Some 5,000 copies are required by the airline every month.





**ALTHOUGH HE** will continue to clef his "Surface Noise" column and contribute occasional news and

feature articles to its pages, Dave Dexter this month is stepping aside as the editor of Capitol News to concentrate on finding and recording talent for Capitol Records, Inc. Moving in to supervise the mag—which is now in its ninth year of publication—will be John (Bud) Freeman and Lou Schurrer.

Freeman, a former Variety writer, will boss the editorial end of the mag and Schurrer, until recently head of his own advertising agency, will direct the art side. Ray Polley continues as production head. Dexter, who started Peggy Lee, Kay Starr, Nellie Lutcher, Julia Lee and others on Cap wax, and who with Glenn E. Wallichs also was responsible for Stan Kenton and King Cole recording for the Cap label, will frequently be out on the road ogling new bands and singers and cutting platters.

Roc Hillman, long featured with the old Dorsey Brothers and later, Jim Dorsey's band, on guitar, is leading the music on Joe Graydon's new TV show over KLAC in H'wood. Carol Richards does the fem vocals.

On the same station, Carl Cons, for a decade co-owner of Down Beat (the musicians' newspaper in Chicago) is producing and directing two shows of his own, with a third skedded to tee off in March.

Hollywood music men concede "Mona Lisa" to be an easy winner of the Academy award, even though it was poorly spotted in a mildly popular Paramount film.

The song, hiked up on the Hit Parade charts by Nat Cole's sleek version, was composed by the same team of Livingston and Evans which previously scored with "Buttons and Bows" and "To Each His Own."

Coast songwriters honored Harry Tobias at the Hotel Roosevelt. He wrote "Sweet and Lovely" and many another smash.

The 94-piece Israel Philharmonic orchestra, with Dr. Serge Koussevitzky and Leonard Bernstein alternating as conductors, will perform at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium March 3, 4, 5. The unit, on its first tour of America, will play 55 concerts in 40 cities.

Alfred Hitchcock engaged Max Steiner to compose and score original music for "Strangers On a Train." Drama features Ruth Roman, Farley Granger and Bob Walker. It's being made at Warner Brothers.

Vernon (April in Paris) Duke is in Hollywood, and working with Sammy Cahn on new songs for a musical tentatively titled "Casey Jones."

Bobby Troup's group is now at Cafe Gala on the Sunset Strip, with the leader at the piano and Lloyd Pratt, bassist, and Al Viola, guitar.

Clark Dennis ticketed for two weeks at the Thunderbird, Las Vegas, starting March 1 at \$1,500 per week. He just closed in Spokane. Tenor also is recording prolifically for Cap label.



**FLUFFS MUSIC.** . . . Cleo Moore established her visual appeal. And she's had additional film experience making shorts with Jimmy Dorsey's band back in the early 1940's. Helen will head east, but probably not before spring. Her parting with DeVol was amicable.

## Pinza Set For Comedy Flicker

Ezio Pinza will team with Jane Leigh and former band singer Gale Robbins in a comedy film "Strictly Dishonorable," which rolls this month at MGM. The former opera and concert star's first picture, "Mr. Imperium," was made last fall with Lana Turner and is being released this month.

## Leaves DeVol; Helen O'Connell Out On Her Own

Blonde Helen O'Connell, who recently emerged from a long retirement to work as featured vocalist with Frank DeVol's dance band at the Hollywood Palladium, is going out on her own as a singing single.

The Ohio finch banged her way back into popularity quickly at the Palladium, and was regarded as being partly responsible for the hefty box-office marks chalked up by DeVol's new "Music of the Century" crew. She is also in demand for TV shows throughout the Southern California area.

With major film factories pondering the O'Connell pipes—and beauteous face—it seemed likely that she would be testing within the next few weeks. She's no novice—her scenes in "The Fleet's In" at Paramount and "I Dood It" at MGM during the war years

threw aside her chances to become a singing star and switched over to straight acting. Result: She's got a fancy role in RKO-Radio's "Gambling House" drama opposite Victor Mature, Well, Betty Grable, June Haver, Gloria De Haven and Doris Day made the same move, too, not too long ago. And Cleo thinks she can do as well.

## Red Ingle Will Play In England

Red Ingle and his Seven (natural and otherwise) will start an 8-week tour of Great Britain on March 4, with Ingle featuring four American musicians and four British sidemen.

The zany fiddler and singer had a best-selling record over there a few seasons back, "Cigaretts and Whuskey." It will be the first appearance of Ingle's combo outside the U. S.



**ON HER OWN** . . . Helen O'Connell, who recently returned to music as a vocalist with Frank DeVol's ork, has left DeVol and will work as a single act. An Ohioan, "Button Nose" will continue to record for Capitol.

## Russell Near Death In S. F.

Charles (Pee-Wee) Russell, most colorful of all hot clarinetists and one of the few remaining vets of the old rip-roaring Chicago jazz school of the 1920's, was hovering near death in a San Francisco hospital as this issue went to press in mid-January. No hope was held for his recovery.

Russell, who originally came out of Missouri, has been ill many months. He came to the west coast last summer, spent some time in Hollywood and left for San Fran in December. A liver ailment and multiple complications were blamed for his critical illness. Russell has recorded hundreds of sides and virtually all of them are collectors' items today.

## Whiting Jaunt Off; She Will Go East Later

(February Cover Girl)

Margaret Whiting's postponed personal appearance run at the New York Capitol Theater with Frank DeVol's music and Jack Smith as added attractions again has been shoved back. So Mag will remain in Hollywood.

**Busy With Army Dates**

The Capitol engagement originally was scheduled for January, but radio commitments on the west coast kept Maggie, DeVol and Smith from shoving off for the east. Then, in February, Smith landed a role in a film at Warners and couldn't go.

Margaret, meanwhile, has continued her airshow with DeVol's band and Smith (Dinah Shore is featured on the other days of the week) and also piled one army camp show atop another. Probably no other singer in the business has visited as many military hospitals and camps as Whiting since the Korean war started.

**Going East Anyway**

"But I'll be playing eastern theaters this spring," she said. "With or without DeVol and Smith, I'm booked now for personals in a dozen eastern cities."

"Over and Over Again," a new ballad with strange and exotic overtones, composed by a talented Polish refugee, Henry Vars, meanwhile looms as Whiting's first big smash hit, on discs, in '51.

## Al Nicholas To Manone's Band

Spotting Albert Nicholas on clarinet and Cajun Verret on slide trombone, Wingy Manone, his cornet and combo have been playing nightly at Showtime, a niteroy on Ventura Blvd., in Encino. Wingy's billing reads, "Bing Crosby's Favorite Trumpet Player."



## New Orleans Next Stop For Hot Garber Ork

Jan Garber's ork will remain in the deep, warm South this month following an engagement in Jackson, Miss.

The little North Carolina fiddler will open on Feb. 8, for four weeks, at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans for a fee in excess of \$4,000 a week. Roy Cordell is the Garber vocalist.

A bandleader for more than a quarter of a century, Jan is doing better in 1951 than he did five, ten or 15 years ago. A steady stream of Cap records has created a big demand for his simple, danceable music, and Garber is the kind of guy who loves to hit the road and let the people, even in the smaller communities, watch his aggregation in the flesh.



**GENIAL JAN**, as his fans call him, looks for his biggest year in '51 with a half-dozen records helping him snare the biggest fees his band has ever received. Garber will open on Feb. 8 for four weeks at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. And he will net more than \$4,000 per!



They're excited, out at MGM's mighty Culver City film factory, about Sally Forrest. She's got the lead in "The Strip" opposite Mickey Rooney. But first you'll see Sally in "Excuse My Dust," a big and blatant musical starring Red Skelton. Sally cuts a boogie-woogie dance in this 'un, against a New Orleans waterfront setting, which will have the males howling like coyotes. This pose is a clip from the film.

## Movie Nabobs Turn To Musicals Again

By BUD FREEMAN

Adjusting to the TV threat and a world situation which will apparently increase in tension, Hollywood filmmakers will plunk their blue chips on Technicolor musicals as the best bet to keep the turnstiles tripping during 1951. Fred Astaire has signed with Metro to do two additional color musicals after a starring with Vera Ellen in "Belle of New York," now in preparation.

Danny Kaye will make two Technicolor toonies for Sam Goldwyn: "The Adventures of Walter Mitty," and a story based on the life of Hans Christian Andersen. Latter will co-star Moira Shearer, the British ballerina who played the lead in "Red Shoes."

Finished and in the final stages of editing at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer are: "Rich, Young and Pretty," the Jane Powell, Vic Damone starring vehicle, and the remake of "Show Boat" with Kathryn Grayson, Al Gardner and Howard Keel. Tony Martin, Janet Leigh, and Gloria De Haven have completed their labors on RKO's "Two Tickets Broadway," while Warners is shooting the Doris Day, Gordon MacRae vehicle, "Moonlight Bay." "Meet Me After The Show," and "Friendly Island" are in final stages of preparation at 20th-Century Fox as is "Painting the Clouds with Sunshine" at Warners.

## Paramount, MGM Bag Armstrong

### Satch Has Big Part In 'Strip'

Influenced by the spirit and bounce that a dozen different Dixieland bands have given to niteries, those on the west coast in particular, MGM last month went to the source for special music in its big-budget musical, "The Strip."

#### 13 Tunes Planned

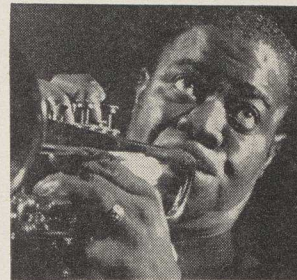
Louis Armstrong and his band, no less, drew the assignment from Producer Joe Pasternak. The great New Orleans trumpeter and singer used his regular band for the stint, a band which includes Jack Teagarden, Earl Hines, Barney Bigard, Cosy Cole and Arvell Shaw. According to the studio, the Satch recorded 13 tunes for the soundtrack, including prized evergreens like "Rose Room," "Ja-Da," "Wabash Blues," "Basin Street Blues," "One O'Clock Jump," "Young Man With a Horn," "I'm Sittin' On Top of the World" and "I'm Comin' Virginia."

Hines, long known as "The Father" to jazz purists, has two solo spots with his facile piano-fingering on "Father's Retreat" and "Father's Time." Vic Damone and Monica Lewis also will be seen in short guest spots, along with the Four Freshmen, small combo which waxes biscuits for Capitol.

#### Rooney Has Male Lead

Sally Forrest and Mickey Rooney are the stars of the pic.

"The Strip" is so named because it is a narrow parcel of land along Sunset Boulevard from Laurel Canyon to Beverly Hills in Los Angeles county. Many a plushy night spot has boomed, bloomed, faded and died there. Mocambo and Ciro's are the two best-known Strip bistros and will be seen in the Metro film. As "The Strip" went into production in January, the story centered about a fictitious club called



LOUIS ARMSTRONG

... Hits his peak in Hollywood's motion picture studios.

"Fluff's," operated by an old-time vaude star, Bill Demarest. Armstrong's combo plays in the spot. Kay Brown is a cigaret girl who does intermission vocals. But the big musical interest centers around Armstrong and his time-tested sidemen.

A last minute addition to the powerful cast was Jacqueline Fontaine, the hard-hitting little blonde shouter who has won a big following in California via her records with Nappy Lamare's band, and appearances on TV and in night clubs. Jackie has a sort of youthful Sophie Tucker approach to a lyric. She's worked with Lamare on KTLA's "Dixie Show Boat" program as well as on biscuits.

## 'That's My Boy' Irks The Schnoz

There's a feud brewing between Jimmy Durante and the team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

Martin and Lewis are winding up work in "That's My Boy," a comedy produced by Hal Wallis at Paramount. Durante has long used the title as a "catch phrase" in his comedy routines, and has protested its use by Wallis. But apparently Wallis, Martin and Lewis are ignoring the Schnoz's pleas, for the picture is virtually completed with Polly Bergen and Ruth Hussey handling the lead-in fem roles.

## With Crosby In 'Groom' Picture

Louis Armstrong endured a hectic month in January following his two-weeker at the Oasis, for in addition to facing MGM's big cameras in "The Strip," old Satchmo and his musicians also checked in at Paramount for scenes in Bing Crosby's forthcoming "Here Comes the Groom" flicker.

#### Phil Harris In, Also

Produced and directed by Frank Capra, "Here Comes the Groom" will find Armstrong and his men—the same guys who work with Louie in the MGM pic—kicking up their heels on "Christofo Columbo," a novelty composed by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans. It's the first Crosby picture in ages which hasn't featured songs by the veteran team of Van Heusen and Burke.

Crosby also will have Phil Harris with him in the "Groom" movie, as well as Cass Daley and Frank Fontaine.

#### Nothing New For Louie

Armstrong, an institution in American music since he got his start as a musician while living in a Waif's Home in New Orleans before World War I, also appeared on two of Crosby's radio shows last month. But making movies is no novelty for Louie. He's been featured on celluloid in shorts and full-length features for 15 years. One of his most memorable appearances was with Crosby in "Pennies From Heaven" more than a decade ago.

## Lutcher On Road

Nellie Lutcher, when she ends her run at the Tiffany Club in L. A., goes north for a three-weeker at the Swing Club in San Francisco starting Feb. 2, then it's New York again for the Real Gone Gal. She will play two weeks at the Paramount on Times Square starting late in February.



# Kenton Comes home!



BAGLEY



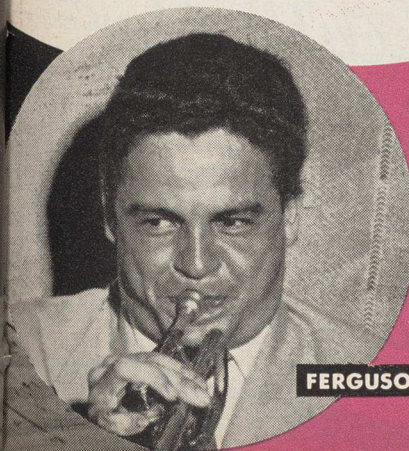
GLOGA

THE WEST COAST is ready and waiting for the promised and hoped-for return to California of Stan Kenton and his Artistry in Rhythm, which glides back to the ornate bandstand of the Hollywood Palladium on Feb. 15, after a five-week run after a lengthy and spectacular eastern tour. Stan first worked the Palladium in late 1941, and has played there many times since, and has always proved a potent lure. Returning with the big pianist will be Jay Johnson, a Joplin-winning vocal soloist, and a stellar lineup of sidemen help make Stan's music the fresh and stimulating force that it is. This will be a strictly "music for the eyes" engagement—Stan won't return to the concert field until next fall.

—PHOTOS BY GENE HOWARD



MANNE



FERGUSON



JOHNSON



# Western Hits!

The Shotgun Boogie  
- Tennessee Ernie

'Hot Rod Race' - Ramblin'  
Jimmie Dolan

'Don't Make Love to Mary'  
- Tex Williams

'Butane Blues' - Gene O'Quinn

'Hominy Grits' - Smiley Burnette

'Straighten Out Your  
Troubles' - Ole Rasmussen

'With a Kiss' - Cliffie Stone

'My Life with You' - Eddie  
Dean

'David and Goliath'  
- Jordanaires

'Peek-a-Boo' - Bob Atcher

## Eddie Dean, Seventh Son Of A Seventh Son, Etches New Discs For Western Fans This Month

By BEEP ROBERTS

Capitol this month will introduce its newest western recording artist, Eddie Dean, whose name is well known all over the nation to lovers of western ballads. Eddie says his reputation as "seventh son of the seventh son" was what gave him his start back in Chicago, where he was heard on all four networks, for Eddie was born in the seventh month of 1907 down in Posey, Tex. Matter of fact, Eddie is heard and seen on Los Angeles TV Channel 7.

Dean's work with guitar and fiddle was completely self-taught and he soon joined a quartet, later doing concert work on tours through Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas while still in his teens. Following his radio debut in Chicago, Eddie began to make many fine recordings and took up songwriting in 1932. Among many of the tunes which he composed was "One Has My Name and the Other Has My Heart."

During the "forties," Eddie made a series of pictures for Eagle-Lion and was active on the Judy Canova show and in entertaining our Armed Forces.

Jimmy Wakely recently guested on Cliffie Stone's "Hometown Jamboree" television show here before leaving for New York to appear on Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" on Jan. 21 along with Margaret Truman.

Tex Williams started off the new year by reorganizing his own band for an extended engagement at the Riverside Rancho. We were advised it was the biggest opening the Rancho ever had with a capacity crowd of over 5,000 fans, and Tex is presently airing three transcontinental remotes from there, via NBC. He's also making a new musical short for Universal-International.

Smiley Burnette is currently on tour with Gene Autry in theaters in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas, and he will be making another "Durango Kid" picture the latter part of this month.

Tennessee Ernie will be guesting on Biff Collie's show at KNUZ, Houston, and Floyd Whitney of KRTM radio programs down Texas way. Ernie really packed 'em in down at the San Diego Naval Base on Jan. 28 when he played to 5,000 middies. Snader Telecriptions will later be releasing some video films that Ernie is planning to make this month.

Tex Ritter is touring the Pacific Northwest this month for the first time, and we advise all you readers of this department to be on the lookout for some of the new Ritter records which will be released this month. They remind us of the old days, and incidentally Tex recorded them while at his Van Nuys home during these past Christmas holidays.

## New Date For Duke's Concert

Gene Norman has juggled the date of his coming Duke Ellington "Just Jazz" concert in the Los Angeles Shrine Aud from Feb. 3 to Feb. 9. Ellington, making his first appearance in a year in the far west, will feature some of his new works, including "Monologue," "Duet" and "Trio." The usual Ellington stars will be on hand, including Hodges, Brown, Greer, Carney and Procope.

Norman also sponsored Louis Armstrong at Pasadena Aud on Jan. 30 successfully. Heard nightly on KFWB in H'wood, the jockey has been offering his "Just Jazz" concerts now for four years, and all but a few have made money.



EDDIE DEAN joins Capitol this month, making his debut on the label with a long string of successes in the western singing field behind him. Eddie hails from Posey, Tex., but it was in Chicago that he got his start as a top sagebrush chanter. He's a favorite with Los Angeles television viewers, too.

## And Hope Was In Most Of 'Em

George Murphy, president of the Hollywood Coordinating Committee, reports that prominent entertainers in the film colony made 1,529 voluntary appearances at benefits during 1950. The Committee approved 542 events, including 210 for the armed forces. An average of more than four prominent entertainers from the Hollywood colony were appearing in the name of some worthy cause every day of the year. The number quoted by the Coordinating Committee, an organization established to protect performers against "racket" charities, does not include individual visits to veterans hospitals, wards and clinics by individual artists.

The entertainers in Murphy's report included scores of singers, who frequently contribute their time and songs with nothing more than piano accompaniment.





**SINGERS, SINGERS** everywhere and not a ham in sight. That's the situation this month at Warner Brothers as three topflight chirpers work the big stages in starring roles in "Moonlight Bay."

The film, produced by William Jacobs and directed by Roy del Ruth, not only features Gordon MacRae and Doris Day, but also the happy boy of the music biz, Jack Smith. It is Jack's first big chance in films. He's been seen in shorts—short films, that is—but never in a big money production. MacRae and Miss Day, on the other hand, think nothing of doing four or five a year. The same studio also is shooting "Painting The Clouds With Sunshine" with Virginia Mayo and Dennis Morgan.

Tony Martin got his tootsies smashed, and ruined a pair of new shoes, when a piano rolled over him at RKO where "Two Tickets To Broadway" was being filmed.

Billy Daniels, his face healed after that vicious knifing in Hollywood, left Mocambo for Florida. He refused to prosecute the woman who widened his smile a few inches.

Frankie Laine also left California to work the New York Copa.

Eddy Howard and his band opened Jan. 30 at the St. Francis in San Francisco for six weeks. It's Eddy's first west coast engagement in years.

This one really fits our "Strictly Singers" file: Mabel Scott, the 30-year-old thrush who popularized "Elevator Boogie" two years ago, filed suit for divorce from Charles Brown, of "Driftin'



**NEWLYWEDS.** . . . Roy Cordell, featured baritone with Jan Garber's crew, poses with Mrs. Cordell, who until Dec. 28 was Barbara Jane Smith, a California model. The ceremony was in Long Beach while Garber's gang vacationed over the Christmas season.

## Bob Crosby Set For RKO Film

Bob Crosby was a last-minute addition to "Two Tickets To Broadway" last month, the RKO musical which has been shooting longer than any musical in years.

The ex-leader of the "best Dixieland band in the land" will be seen along with Tony Martin, Janet Leigh, Gloria De Haven and others. James V. Kern directed it, in color.

## Avodon Ballroom Now a Garage

Los Angeles' Avodon Ballroom, which right after World War II gave the Palladium competition with bands like Woody Herman, Billy Butterfield and Bobby Sherwood, folded permanently last month and the building is being converted into a garage. The Avodon's bands were aired nationally during its "hot" period, but as normal times returned it faded into a weekend rumba spot.

Blues" renown, in Los Angeles Jan. 2. Mabel charged that Charley forcibly put her, and her belongings, out of their home. In



**MOST THEATER** and night club men curse TV. But Herman Hover, who operates Ciro's on the Sunset Strip in Los Angeles, believes a great attraction will draw business despite video.

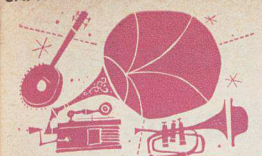
Hover personally conducted a poll last month at Ciro's, among his patrons, to learn just how many television fans patronize his place. At Dick Contino's opening, for example, 97 per cent of those who came to watch the young accordionist admitted they had TV sets at home. Most of those people further admitted they had never seen Dick in person, but were anxious to watch him because they had seen him perform over TV.

Checking into the situation during the recent holiday season, Hover discovered from his patrons that they regularly left their homes and their TV sets if a truly great attraction was performing in person somewhere in the Los Angeles area. But less than the top performers couldn't get 'em to leave their living rooms, Hover was told.

"All I have learned from this little survey," opines the Ciro's boss, who also does a disc jockey stint over the Liberty web, "is that when an attraction at a movie theater, night club or sporting arena is what people want to see, neither television nor a blonde can keep a guy at home."

He may have something there.

demanding separate maintenance. Mrs. Brown asked that Brown pay her \$5,000 every month, basing the figure upon his estimated earnings of \$100,000 annually. They were married Jan. 16, 1949. The divorce was granted.



'way back when...

*memorable artists who made music history*

## Ray Noble's 1935-36 Band

Son of a noted British doctor, Ray Noble became one of England's most famous musicians in the early 1930's with his Mayfair orchestra which broadcast regularly over BBC. A gifted pianist, Noble, oddly enough, never played piano in his own orks. But his arranging and conducting skills and his knack of hiring great musicians made his music epochal.

When the talk turns to unforgettable dance bands, Ray Noble and his music must be weighed carefully. For back in 1935-36, when Noble arrived in New York from London and formed his first Yank crew for a long run atop the RCA Building in Radio City—they called it the Rainbow Room—his was one of the most danceable and most musical aggregations ever assembled.

Noble, son of a British surgeon, had conducted excellent bands in England for many years. But this was something special. His own arrangements, his uncanny selection of tempos and his insistence on featuring a young South African, Al Bowlly, as vocalist, were Noble's own contributions.

But Ray went even farther. In building a new band, he hired the best musicians, although, at that time, they were still unknowns. Glenn Miller and Will Bradley played the trombones. Bud Freeman, Milt Yaner, Johnny Mince, Jimmy Cannon and Danny

D'Andrea formed the reed section. Trumpets included Charlie Spivak and George (Pee-Wee) Irvin. George Van Epps was on guitar, Delmar Kaplan on bass, Bill Harty at the drums and Claude Thornhill, piano. Fiddles comprised Nick Pisani, Fritz Prospero and D'Andrea, who doubled on reeds.

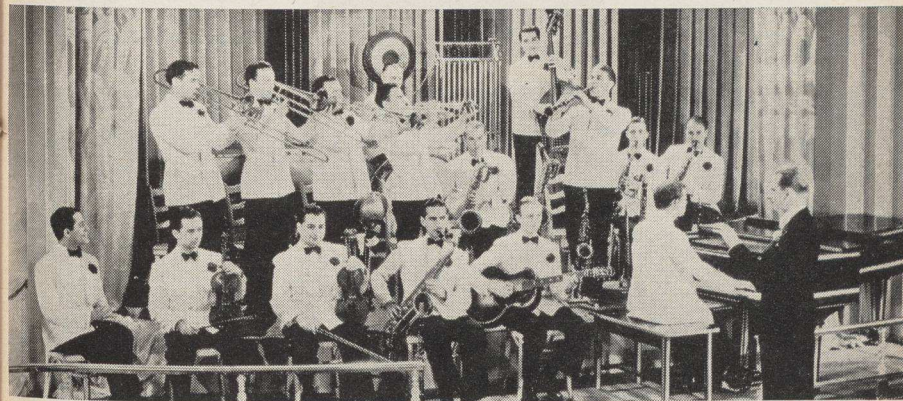
Noble's records were best-

sellers. Most of them were pretty, tasteful ballads featuring Bowlly's dramatic singing and superb ensembles. But occasionally Noble would swing, with Freeman's honking tenor and Irwin's long trumpet blowing hot. Among the most-requested titles by this group, on the old Victor label, were "Dinner For One, Please James," "Where Am I?," "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans," "When I'm With You" and "Easy To Love."

Noble later toured with the band, winding up in Hollywood. As the years passed, so did his best musicians. Finally, in the 1940's, Ray began using straight studio orchestras for the big commercial radio shows and he became an actor himself. Today, Noble is far better known for his British wit than for his rich, unbeatable dance music of 15 years ago. Miller, Spivak, Bradley, Thornhill all became famous leaders themselves. Bowlly, Cannon and Miller are now dead.

But it was great while it lasted.

—Dave Dexter, Jr.



Rear row, left to right: Glenn Miller, Will Bradley, Charlie Spivak, George Irvin, Bill Harty, Jimmy Cannon, Del Kaplan, Johnny Mince, Milt Yaner and Bud Freeman.

Front row: Al Bowlly, Fritz Prospero, Nick Pisani, Danny D'Andrea, George Van Epps, Claude Thornhill and Noble, in tails.





STAN KENTON: Palladium, opening Feb. 20 for five weeks.  
RALPH FLANAGAN: Palladium, now.

PETE DAILY: Royal Room.  
RED NORVO: The Encore.  
RED NICHOLS: Sardi's.  
ZUTTY SINGLETON: Club 47.  
KID ORY: Beverly Cavern.  
MARVIN ASH: Hangover Club.  
EDDIE BERGMAN: Coconut Grove.

RUSS MORGAN: Biltmore Hotel.  
ARTHUR VAN: Colonial Ballroom.  
WINGY MANONE: Showtime.  
FREDDIE SLACK: Astor's.  
BOBBY TROUP: Cafe Gala.

### That's Liz!

Elizabeth Taylor, pride of Metro, poses for the first time in her glamorous career in tights (right) as she presents George Sanders, KFVD jock in Los Angeles, with a trophy symbolic of his being named "King of Disc Jockeys" for 1951. The trophy was offered by Movie Stars Parade, a fan mag. Just what Liz had to do with this coup isn't quite clear. But her attractions are!



## Eckstine Bucks Weavers, Ice

Billy Eckstine, the Weavers and a new ice show will battle it out for patronage early this month in Hollywood. Eckstine opened Jan. 2 at Mocambo, his first job there. The Weavers were to open at Ciro's on Feb. 1, also their first appearance on the Sunset Strip.

And Earl Carroll's huge theater restaurant, which has been dark two years, will light up again with an ice show featuring a cast of 48. This is a radical change from the type of entertainment which Carroll, before his death in a plane crash, offered for more than a decade.

### That's Red!

Flocking out to the Encore, a Hollywood eatery where Red Norvo's fly, sleek, subtle trio is currently playing were Dick Contino, Muggsy Spanier, Les Brown and Russ Morgan, who are pictured below chinning with Red during an intermission. Spanier has since jumped to Boston with his leaping Dixie combo. Red features his own vibes, Tal Farlow's guitar and Charlie Mingus' bass.



## Hits!

'If' - Dean Martin

'Little Rock Getaway' - Les Paul

'My Heart Cries for You' - Jimmy Wakely

'John and Marsha' - Stan Freberg

'I Taut I Taw a Puddy Tat' - Mel Blanc

'Be My Love' - Ray Anthony

'Over and Over and Over' - Margaret Whiting

'Lovesick Blues' - Kay Starr

'Pagliacci' - 'Santa Lucia' - Stan Kenton



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## The Honeymoon Is Over



MEET THE MISSUS. . . Ray Anthony, during his recent run at the New York Hotel Statler, met Skitch Henderson's bride, Faye Emerson, for the first time during a midnight supper session. At right, visiting Anthony from Hollywood and rounding out the foursome, is Dick Jones of Capitol Records, in charge of the classical division. Skitch and Faye rank among the nation's most popular radio and TV attractions. They were married in both Mexico and New York in December.